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CONTACT
William Pitman
william.pitman@state.ma.us



Governor Baker Nominates Elaine M. Buckley, Debra Squires-Lee to Associate Justices of the Superior Court

BOSTON— Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Attorneys Elaine M. Buckley and Debra Squires-Lee to the positions of Associate Justices of the Superior Court. Buckley has over 30 years of trial experience, including 22 years as Senior Trial Counsel for the Law Office of Kevin McNamara in Needham, MA. Squires-Lee has over 20 years of experience in complex business litigation, having spent the past ten years as Partner with the Boston based Sherin and Lodgen LLP.

"Attorneys Buckley and Squires-Lee have proven themselves to be talented and thoughtful litigators, with a passion for serving their clients and taking on complex cases," **said Governor Baker**. "Given their experience and strong records, I am pleased to submit their names for the Governor's Council's advice and consent."

"Elaine Buckley's three decades of teaching experience with the New England School of Law and Debra Squire-Lee's contributions to both the Boston Bar Association and the Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners demonstrate these attorney's dedication to serving their community and the people of the Commonwealth," **said Lt. Governor Polito**. "I am confident their demeanor and legal experience will serve Massachusetts well, if confirmed."

The Superior Court is a statewide court of general jurisdiction - handling both criminal and civil actions. The court's 82 justices sit in 20 courthouses in all 14 counties of the Commonwealth. The court has exclusive original jurisdiction of first degree murder cases and original jurisdiction of all other crimes.

For more information about the Superior Court, please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/sc/>

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

About Elaine M. Buckley

Elaine M. Buckley currently serves as Senior Trial Counsel with the Law Office of Kevin McNamara, responsible for all phases of the preparation and trial of catastrophic injury cases, general negligence, tort, and automobile negligence cases in the courts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Buckley has a background in in-house experience with Amica Mutual Insurance Company and as Trial Counsel for Travelers Insurance and Sentry Insurance Companies. She has served as an Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing at the New England School of Law since 1988, and has spent time volunteering with the US Coast Guard Academy NE Parent's Association as Secretary and with the Boston College High School First Families/Neighborhood Network Program, aiding in an effort to recruit students from various socioeconomic groups for admissions to the school. After earning her Bachelor of Sciences in Business Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Buckley graduated with her *Juris Doctor* from the New England School of Law in 1985. She currently lives in Duxbury with her family.

About Debra Squires-Lee

Debra Squires-Lee currently serves as a Partner with Sherin and Lodgen LLP, where she has represented companies in complex business litigation, including the defense of trade secret misappropriation claims, breach of contract actions, and unfair trade practices claims. She has defended national law firms, solo lawyers, and small firms in legal malpractice cases, and represented lawyers before the Board of Bar Overseers. Squires-Lee was noted as one of the Top Women in Law 2016 by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and has extensive experience serving the Boston Bar Association as Chair of the Business and Commercial Litigation Section and previous Chair of the Professional Liability Committee. Squires-Lee currently serves on the Amicus Committee for the BBA. Squires-Lee graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Cornell University and *summa cum laude* with her *Juris Doctor* from New York University School of Law in 1996. Thereafter, she served as a Judicial Clerk in the United States District Court in the Southern District of New York.

She currently lives in Hingham with her family.

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